

.... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

Hello and Welcome

..... here are some diary dates in June for meetings in the Village Hall:-

1 Jun - *Parish Council Meeting* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

20 Jun - *Planning Committee* starting with the public session at 6.30pm

29 Jun - *Council Surgery* at the Village Coffee Morning at 10am

War Memorial

The remedial work on the memorial is now complete. The highly porous Eastbourne Greensand base stone used in the original plinth has been replaced with York Stone to match the steps. The plaques are surface mounted and we're now planning to have the inscriptions highlighted a little more. We are also arranging for the steps to receive a facelift, and are obtaining quotes for blasting and repainting the railings.

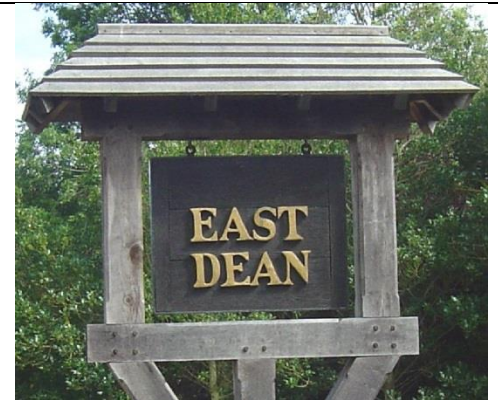
Mowing

The Parish Council arrange for the mowing of the recreation ground (except for the cricket pitches – done by the cricket club) and the three registered village greens (The Green and Church Green, Friston Green and the Greensward). We also look after other pockets of land (eg The Fridays) as well as the verges previously maintained by ESCC within the 30mph zone - these require a significant number of extra cuts per year. We also monitor and maintain many footpaths in the villages, repairing steps and distributing bark chip during the cutting seasons.



A Look at Planning

All councillors are members of the Planning Committee, chaired by Mike Keller. The group met 12 times during 2016/17 to consider 38 Planning Applications and other planning related matters; 22 members of the public attended these meetings. Some two thirds of the 38 applications were recommended for approval while 10 were recommended for refusal (some of which were subsequently amended and resubmitted) and four for approval if modified. The South Downs National Park (SDNP) is the Planning Authority for the area and the Parish Council is a statutory consultee and, owing to its local knowledge, is asked to comment on all planning applications within the Parish, which lies wholly within the National Park. In making comments the Committee takes account of representations from the Residents' Association and individual residents, and is always mindful of the standards within the ED&F *Village Design Statement*. The SDNP has adopted the VDS as a *Supplementary Planning Document* (SPD) and as such it carries the weight of formal planning policy. The VDS can be accessed via our website, and copies have been sent to all architects who have carried out work in the village during the past year. It is pleasing to note that a number now quote compliance with the VDS in their submissions to the SDNP. The PC website also carries a significant amount of other planning information and advice, do take a look. The planning committee meet on the third Tuesday of each month in the village hall – all are welcome.



Annual Village Meeting

The AVM was held on 11 May in the Village Hall and its success was again measured by the number attending. Over 100 residents came to see the displays and chat with representatives from local clubs and societies, to hear a number of update presentations, and participate in a Q&A session. There were updates from OpenArt, the Roads Company, ED&F WI, ED Players, the Church, Compassionate Neighbours (a new initiative), Residents' Association, and the Parish Council (covering the Playground Upgrade, Sheltered Housing and the Friston Crossing*). A variety of questions followed. The Annual Village Report was handed out and this is also available for viewing/download from the on-line library on the Council website. (* more about these three items later in the year)

Drones

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued a Drone Code which stipulates that drones must stay below 400ft (200m) and at least 150ft (50m) away from people and property, and must not be used for overflying. This means that drones should not be used on the Greensward, and could only be used to a very limited extent on the recreation ground. We have agreed that the flying of drones for commercial purposes over council-owned land would not be acceptable. The Drone Code is available on the Council website.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Each year the Council hold an annual meeting to make appropriate appointments and confirm certain rules and regulations. The APCM this year was held on 5 May at which Stewart Fuller was re-elected Chair, Ruth Maxwell was re-elected Vice Chair and Mike Keller was re-elected Chair of the Planning committee. At the APCM it was agreed to absorb all the activities of the Rights of Way Committee into the main Council and close the Committee to help streamline the operations of the Council. At the meeting it was agreed that the Council's charity for the year will be the East Dean Responders who will benefit from our fund raising activities and direct donations. Minutes of the APCM (and other meetings) are on our website.

Safety Day

As mentioned in the March *Rendezvous* we have been thinking about arranging a Safety Day in the village sometime late summer/early autumn. This might include local groups (eg East Dean Responders, Community Watch), non-local organisations (eg Age Concern) and the emergency services. We held a similar event in the village hall a couple of years ago; unfortunately attendance wasn't that high (maybe down to the level of advertising). Would you be interested in coming along to a Safety Day this Autumn (probably an afternoon)? Let us know so we can gauge the support – email us or call a councillor or the clerk.

2016/17 Finances

The Council's receipts during 2016/17 amounted to £54k and payments totalled £42k giving a surplus of £12k. The precept (amount received from the council tax) was £48k. Other income items included VAT refund (£3k), Pavilion Hire (£1k) and all other income (£2k). Main spend items were Council Office (£15k), Professional Expenses (£3k), Asset Maintenance (£5k), mowing and tree cutting (£8k), donations (£3k), community bus (£2k), VAT payments (£2k) and all other expenditure (£4k). Cash held at the year-end was £48k. This is to cover the war memorial repairs and to help meet planned expenditure in 2017/18 (eg pavilion and part of the play area upgrade) and to provide normal operating reserves.

Walking Maps



Now that the good weather is here you may wish to take a healthy walk on the Downs. We have three walking maps - all starting and ending at the village car park. They cover 1.5, 4.5 and 7 miles respectively. Available for download from the on-line library on our website or available at various locations around

the village (eg Barn Stores, doctors' surgery, Bee Hive), or contact Cllr Phill Hill.

Tennis Courts

The tennis net at the tennis court on the recreation ground is now up for the summer period. We've also put nets around the two netball/basketball hoops. There's no booking and no charge for using the tennis court; all we ask is if others are waiting for a game you take this into account in your timings.

Flying the Flag

We're looking for a volunteer custodian of the PC flags (incl Union, St George, Commonwealth, Sussex). You'll help by flying the flags from the PC's flagpole on the village green on various days of the year. Interested? Please contact the parish clerk or the chairman for further info.

Website

There's a significant amount of helpful info on our website, and a news board. Overall, it provides a useful insight into the Council's work. It's visited 700 times per month. Take a look: edfparishcouncil.org.uk

Your Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Stewart Fuller (Chair)	423710
Ruth Maxwell (Vice Chair)	423397
Ian Haydock	423920
Phill Hill	423990
Amanda Hookham	422180
Michael Keller	422091
Jen Sargent	422326
Paul Seeley	422361
Vacancy	

Standing Committee

Planning Chair: Mike Keller

Parish Clerk

Katrina Larkin

The Old Cottage, Lewes Road
Laughton, East Sussex, BN8 6BQ
01323 811870

Parish Council Meetings

The next two Council meetings will be held in the Village Hall at 6.30pm on:

1 Jun and 6 Jul (no meeting in Aug)

Residents are very welcome to attend, observe and participate in the public sessions. Agendas are placed on the Council noticeboard in Downlands Way and on our website.

Finances for year to Apr '17

Receipts	£24,764
Payments	£3,389
Cash in Hand	£69,432

Receipts include first of two precept instalments

Some Stats from 2016/17

36 residents attended Council Meetings
22 residents came to Planning Meetings
38 planning applications considered
498 members on the PC email register
2,308 passenger trips on the local bus
8,395 visits to the PC website
30,664 pages accessed on PC website

Waste Bins

Following the successful use of anti-pest bins in the village car park, similar bins will now be placed at the East Dean bus stops and the recreation ground

Email Register

There are some 500 addresses on our email register; just one of the ways we use to keep you in the know. To be included simply send an email, with your name and address in the subject line to:

edfpc1@gmail.com